

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
  - an input unit which inputs ~~image information including~~ first image information to be printed on a recording medium and second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium;
  - a printer which prints an image on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached, wherein the image is based on the first image information;
  - a writing unit which writes the second image information, first authentication information for printing a first range of the second image information and second authentication information for printing a second range of the second image information to the storage device attached to the recording medium to the storage device attached to the recording medium;
  - a controller which controls said printer to print the image based on the first image information on the recording medium, and controls said writing unit to write the second image information and authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels to the storage device, wherein a printable range of the second image information differs at each level;
  - a reading unit which reads the second image information, the first authentication information and the second authentication information which have been stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium on which the image based on

~~the first image information has been printed; and the authentication information stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium; and~~

a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information,

wherein ~~said controller determines a range of the second image information which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input by said user authentication information input unit, based on the authentication read by said reading unit and the user authentication information input by said user authentication information input unit, and controls said printer to print~~ prints an image based on the first determined range of the second image information read by said reading unit if the input user authentication information corresponds to the first authentication information, and prints an image based on the second range of the second image information read by said reading unit if the input user authentication information corresponds to the second authentication information.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a display unit which displays an image based on the second image information ~~stored in the storage medium read by said reading unit~~.

4. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising an instruction unit which instructs said printer to perform printing based on the image displayed by said display unit.

5. to 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

using a processor to perform:

an input step of inputting image information including a first image

information to be printed on a recording medium and a second image information to be

stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium;

a first printing step of printing an image based on the first image

information input in said input step on the recording medium to which the storage device is

attached;

a writing step of writing the second image information, first authentication

information for printing a first range of the second image information and second

authentication information for printing a second range of the second image information to

the storage device attached to the recording medium and authentication information

corresponding to each of a plurality of levels to the storage device, wherein a printable

range of the second image information differs at each level;

a reading step of reading the second image information, [[and]] the first

authentication information and the second authentication which have been stored in the

storage device attached to the recording medium on which the image based on the first

image information has been printed;

a user authentication information input step of inputting user authentication

information;

~~a determining step of determining a range of the second image information which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input in said user authentication information input step, based on the authentication information read in said reading step and the user authentication information input in said user authentication information input step; and~~

~~a second printing step of printing an image based on the determined first range of the second image information read in said reading step if the input user authentication information corresponds to the first authentication information; and~~

~~a third printing step of printing an image based on the second range of the second image information read in said reading step if the input user authentication information corresponds to the second authentication information.~~

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium retrievably storing a computer-executable program, said program comprising:

an input step of inputting image information including a first image information to be printed on a recording medium and a second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium;

a first printing step of printing an image based on the first image information input in said input step on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached;

a writing step of writing the second image information, first authentication information for printing a first range of the second image information and second authentication information for printing a second range of the second image information to the storage device attached to the recording medium; and authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels to the storage device, wherein a printable range of the second image information differs at each level; and

a reading step of reading the second image information, [[and]] the first authentication information and the second authentication information which have been stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium on which the image based on the first image information has been printed;

a user authentication information input step of inputting user authentication information;

a determining step of determining a range of the second image information which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input in said user authentication information input step, based on the authentication information read in said reading step and the user authentication information input in said user authentication information input step; and

a second printing step of printing an image based on the determined first range of the second image information read in said reading step if the input user authentication information corresponds to the first authentication information; and

a third printing step of printing an image based on the second range of the second image information read in said reading step if the input user authentication information corresponds to the second authentication information.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

    a printer which prints an image;

    a reading unit which reads image information, [[and]] first authentication information for printing a first range of the image information and second authentication information for printing a second range of the image information, wherein the image information, [[and]] the first authentication information [[are]] and the second authentication information are stored in a storage device attached to a recording medium, wherein the authentication information corresponds to each of a plurality of levels, wherein a printable range of the image information differs at each level;

    a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information;

    a controller which determines a range of the image information which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input by said user authentication information input unit, based on the authentication information read by said reading unit and the user authentication information input by said user authentication information input unit, and controls said printer to print an image based on the determined first range of the image information read by said reading unit if the input user authentication information corresponds to the first authentication information, and controls said printer to print an image based on the second range of the image information read by said reading unit if the input user authentication information corresponds to the second authentication information.

11. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit which inputs first image information to be printed on a recording medium and second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium;

a printer which prints an image on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached, wherein the image is based on the first image information;

a writing unit which writes the second image information and first authentication information for printing a first range of the second image information to the storage device;

a reading unit which reads each of the second image information and the first authentication information which have been stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium on which the image based on the first image information has been printed; and

a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information,

wherein said printer prints an image based on the first range of the second image information if the user authentication information is input and the input user authentication information corresponds to the first authentication information read by the reading unit, and prints an image based on a second range of the second image information if the user authentication information is not input.

12. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a printer which prints an image;

a reading unit which reads each of image information and first authentication information for printing a first range of the image information, wherein the image information and the first authentication information are stored in a storage device attached to a recording medium;

a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information; and

a controller which controls said printer to print an image based on the first range of the image information if the user authentication information is input and the input user authentication information corresponds to the first authentication information read by the reading unit, and controls the printer to print an image based on a second range of the image information if the user authentication information is not input.